



# The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

## Maine Farmer.

Augusta, April 24, 1880.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

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### Special Notices.

The publishers of this paper are desirous of completing their set of the volumes of the FARMER from its first publication to the present time and they need volumes 10 and 11, to give them the full complement. If any of our readers have all, or either of these volumes, or have knowledge as to who does possess them, they will confer a favor upon the publishers by communicating with them.

### Collectors' Notices.

Mr. C. S. AYER, Agent for the FARMER, will call upon our subscribers in Lincoln county during April.

### Life Saving Service.

Massachusetts is entitled to the credit of instituting the first organized effort for assisting shipwrecked. The human society of Massachusetts, early in this century, built along the coast of what is now Maine and Massachusetts, buts of refuge and organized volunteer life boatmen, who rendered invaluable aid to the unfortunate sailors whose vessels were wrecked upon the bleak New England coast during the winter months. In 1847 Congress initiated the establishments of the present life-saving service of the United States by appropriating five thousand dollars for providing the lighthouses "on the Atlantic coast with means of rendering assistance to shipwrecked mariners."

In December of the same year Congress established a regular organization of the life-saving service, and fifty-four stations were established on the coast of Long Island and New Jersey. Annual appropriations were made for the support of the service, and in 1871 Congress voted two hundred thousand dollars for increasing the number of stations and improving the apparatus used. In 1872 the service was extended to include the coast of New England. In 1874 Congress again extended the field of usefulness for this service and included the Atlantic, Pacific and Lake coasts.

In June, 1878, Congress wisely made the life-saving service a national organization and extended its authority so that it now extends over the entire ocean and lake coast of this country and its expenditures now reach over three hundred thousand dollars per annum. People are aware of the immense value of this service—the number of lives saved by it and the amount of property restored. We have just received the report of the General Superintendent of the service, Mr. Summer J. Kimball, for the fiscal year, which ended June 30, 1879. Mr. Kimball is a native of Maine, having been born in York, Maine. He has been for several years connected with the service and by his indomitable will, his persistent advocacy of the value of the service and his devoted attention to it, has made it so effective that it is pronounced to-day by those competent to judge, the most perfect life-saving service in the world. From his report we learn that there are in the United States now, 173 life-saving stations, divided into 12 districts. The reports of the district officers show that 219 disasters to vessels occurred within the scope of the operations of the service during the last fiscal year.

There were 2,105 persons on board these vessels, of whom 2,049 were saved and 56 lost. There were recorded since the start of the service 371 shipwrecked persons, to whom 1,074 days of life in the aggregate were furnished. The estimated value of the vessels in the disasters was \$1,022,476.

And that of their cargoes \$965,610, making the total value of the property imperiled \$2,887,486. Of this amount \$1,45,066 was saved, and \$1,42,800 was lost. The number of disasters involving the total loss of the vessels was 51. In rendering assistance the surf-boat was used 154 times, 201 trips being made by it. The self-righting and self-bailing life-boat was used 16 times, making 24 trips. The life-boat was used on one occasion and made four trips. The wreck-guns were brought into requisition 13 times, and 43 shots were fired by it. By the surf-boat 297 persons were landed; by the life-boat 14; by the life-boat 3; by the breeches buoy 57; by the use of the rubber dress three persons were saved from drowning in the surf; and eight persons were similarly rescued by surfmen going after them into the underrow secured by lines around their bodies, held by the hands of courtesies.

In 89 instances vessels were here off when stranded, plied out of dangerous places, repaired when damaged, or similarly assisted by the life-saving crews, when without this aid, vessels and crews in many instances would have been destroyed. In District No. 1, which comprises the coast of this State and New Hampshire we find that there are 40 disasters—value of vessels, \$134,571; value of cargoes, \$81,480; total value of property, \$89,510,400; total number of persons on board vessels, 193; number of persons saved, 102; number of persons lost, one; number of shipwrecked persons sheltered at stations, 36; number of days' shelter afforded, 75; value of property lost, \$56,485; number of disasters involving total loss of vessels, 7. Of the 56 persons lost, 16 perished unnecessarily by attempting to land without assistance from the shore; 19 by the immediate destruction of a vessel by striking in a hurricane; four by being instantly swept of vessels upon arrival; five before the life-saving crews hastened to their aid, could reach them; and three during energetic operations for rescue; in one a necessary effort to gain the beach in the ship's boat and one by injuries received, of which he died just after landing.

During nearly eight years, from November 1, 1871, the date of introduction of the present system until June 30, 1879, there have been 707 disasters; value of vessels and cargoes, \$101,156,027; total value of property saved, \$9,310,408; total value of property lost, \$7,009,619; total number of persons on vessels, 8,326; 8,030 of them were saved; 362 were lost and this number includes 183 who were lost at the disasters of the steamers *Huron* and *Metropolis*. Some idea of the hardships incurred by the brave men in this service can be gathered from the following statement of Mr. Kimball:

"The crew of a life-saving station is at present composed of seven persons, a force which is simply adequate to the manning of six ears and the care of the steerers. The stations are situated in places which are barely destitute of other inhabitants in the winter months, and are situated mainly by intervening bays, and about a mile apart, in the solitudes of summer, several miles apart. It is impossible to obtain outside assistance for any of the operations of the service, or for any suddenly created need. In the state of the surf which exists in stormy

weather, the time when a life-saving crew is likely to be called upon to put off to a wreck, it is of great importance that some rough levels of the sea exist in the key dangerous places, so that the crew may be enabled for endangering ships, while all the world lies comfortably in bed. No man among these crews ever gets a whole night's sleep during the eight months of the year when the beach must be patrolled, and for the space of at least four hours, each member must perform this duty. It hardly needs to be said how wearisome such a life is to be."

The addition of another man would give a chance for the preparation, in the necessary cases, of military and naval armament at the stations, who would then be sues to succor a rescue. At present a crew frequently returns to the house, after the racking labors of a whole day, exhausted and tired, and cut and bruised, and spent with fatigue. They bear with them a terrible group of the rescued, sometimes with wounded, sometimes with dead, sometimes with frozen and frozen. The station fire is out or bare; no food is prepared; nothing is ready; everything has to be begun. With and without a home, the members of the assembly would enter an interior fully prepared for their reception."

This is a branch of the service which should command from Congress the most liberal appropriations and its every want should be supplied. This service is devoted to the sacred duty of saving human life and for this cause the men will condone any parsimonious conduct by their law makers. On the coast of Maine we have six stations: West Quoddy Head at Cushing Point Cove; Cross Island, off Mount Desert; Whitehead Island, near Northeast Harbor; Blideford Pool, Fletch's Neck. These stations are under the immediate charge of Mr. John M. Richardson of Portland District Superintendent and Capt. David B. Hodgeson, United States Revenue Marine, Portland, Assistant Inspector.

**CITY NEWS.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles O. Little, which occurred last week. Mr. Little was son of Mr. Thomas Little of this city, and had been for some years engaged in the express business. He was a young man with a large circle of friends, who adored his rare piety, and many good qualities. It has been evident for some time that he was a victim to that fearful disease, consumption, but all through his sickness, up to the very last, he was full of hope, enduring his suffering without a murmur, and with a heroism unequalled by any warrior on the field of battle. He leaves a wife, but no children; his age was 25 years and nine months. He was buried from his father's residence on Friday afternoon, the funeral being attended by a large number of friends; the services at the house were conducted by Rev. J. H. Eoch, after which the members of Asylum Lodge, No. 70, I. O. O. F., and Jephtha Encampment took charge of the grave. In 1852 on this day, 15th, occurred same day as this year, 15th, Mr. Little was visited by a heavy snow storm. The following facts. Total number of men from time to time called into the national service during the war was 2,888,523 enlisted as follows:

For three months 19,005  
For six months 36,573  
For one year 10,000  
For two years 63,133  
For three years 1,492  
For four years 1,000

The LATE WAR. In answer to the question of a subscriber, we would say that the second volume of "The American Conflict," by the late Horace Greeley, gives the following facts. Total number of men from time to time called into the national service during the war was 2,888,523 enlisted as follows:

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